

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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MARCH 28, 1959
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FROM: BONN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2160, MARCH 28, 2 PM

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PRIORITY

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IRCSENT DEPARTMENT 2160, PRIORITY USAFE 403, AND USAREUR 520,
REPEATED INFORMATION PRIORITY BERLIN 739, LONDON 545, MOSCOW
250, PARIS 746.PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USCINCEUR, THURSTON AND WEST.
FROM BRUCE.OCB
USIA
CIA
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ARMY
NAVY
AIR
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REFERENCE: BERLIN 739 MARCH 27

AM SENDING OFF IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PROTEST TO SOVIET
CONTROLLER BASIC RE HARASSMENT BY SOVIET AIRCRAFT OF
USC-130. TEXT FOLLOWS:

"ON MARCH 27, 1959 US AIR FORCE DESPATCHED A TURBOPROP
CARGO AIRCRAFT WITH SUPPLIES FOR THE US GARRISON TO BERLIN.
THE FLIGHTS TO AND FROM BERLIN WERE PROPERLY NOTIFIED WITHIN
OUR PREROGATIVES AND IN THE CUSTOMARY MANNER. AT 1424 GREEN-
WICH CIVIL TIME IN THE LOCATION OF 51-05N, 10-30E, THREE
SOVIET FIGHTER AIRCRAFT HARASSED THE US TRANSPORT AND PROCEEDED
TO PERFORM DANGEROUS MANEUVERS AND FORMATION FLYING WITH
A COMPLETE DISREGARD FOR SAFETY. THE SOVIET FIGHTERS FLEW
WITHIN TEN FEET OF THE TRANSPORT DURING THE FLIGHT THROUGH THE
CORRIDOR AND INTO THE TRAFFIC PATTERN AT TEMPLEHOF, WITHIN
THE VERTICAL AND LATERAL LIMITS OF PROTECTION AFFORDED TO THE
AIRFIELDS IN THE BERLIN CONTROL ZONE. THE IDENTIFICATION OF
THE SOVIET FIGHTERS WAS 32 (PRINTED IN YELLOW) NUMBER EO
(PAINTED IN RED) AND NUMBER 04 (PAINTED IN BLACK). THIS UN-
WARRANTED CONDUCT OF THE SOVIET FIGHTERS WAS REPEATED ON THE
RETURN TRIP OF THE USAF CARGO AIRCRAFT, BEGINNING WITHIN TEN

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-2- 2160, MARCH 28, 2 PM FROM BONN

MINUTES FROM DEPARTURE AT TEMPLEHOF (1704 GMT) AND CONTINUING TO THE VICINITY OF THE BORDER OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. SUCH FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF SAFETY IN THE CORRIDORS AND BERLIN CONTROL ZONE CONSTITUTES A HAZARD TO FLIGHT SAFETY IN THE CORRIDORS AND A DANGEROUS DEVIATION FROM THE PROCEDURES AGREED TO BY THE FOUR POWERS; IT IS REQUESTED THAT ACTION BE TAKEN TO PREVENT ANY RECURRENCE OF SUCH INTERFERENCE WITH ANY FUTURE FLIGHTS OPERATING THROUGH THE CORRIDORS UNDER THE RIGHTS ESTABLISHED BY QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT."

BRUCE

DT

Note: Mr. Lampson (GER) notified 11:45 a.m., 3/28/59CWO-M.

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AND 87747

NARA, Date 12/18